

Craig, Sondra

From: Mary Fran Rybarik <franny363@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 7:17 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Reynolds, Mitch
Cc: Fran Rybarik
Subject: J&A and Council Meetings on August 8

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August 6, 2024

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Reynolds,

I beg you to please take action to ban camping in the marshlands in the City of La Crosse at your meetings on Thursday August 8, 2024.

You have heard from your citizens about the damage to the Marsh, which protects our city from flooding and is home to many flora and fauna. You have heard from tourists, visitors and organizations who utilize the marsh trails, about the abhorrent situation they find along Vietnam Veterans' and Asfoor trails. And the squalor continues to worsen. How many letters have you received from people who have witnessed needles, drug deals, and people shooting up along the trail?

On August 10, Friends of the Marsh are asking for volunteers to sit by the River Architect building on the Veterans trail all day and count people using the trail. On September 14, thousands of families, many of whom travel from all over the country to participate, are planned to walk that trail in support of breast cancer research. What about their needs and safety? Continuing to allow the illegal behaviors happening along a public recreation trail, and catering to this entitlement, is beyond my understanding.

There is no easy solution, we all can agree to that. But you do have options - including the requested recommendations for various short term options from City staff of July 8, which finally showed up in the agenda packet for the J&A meeting July 30.

If you are unable to come up with a short term solution from the options created by the city staff on August 8, please at least make encampments in the marshlands illegal, enforceable and immediate. Postponing it any longer is unconscionable.

Thank you

Mary Fran Rybarik
La Crosse resident and taxpayer